

Office of the United States Attorney District of Arizona

PRESS RELEASE

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TWO MEXICAN CONVICTS RETURNED TO MEXICAN AUTHORITIES TO FACE CHARGES

TUCSON, Ariz. -- Complaints filed last week against Rene Ozuna-Huicosa, 31, and Lorenzo Perez-Lugo, 27, both of Mexico, were dismissed here yesterday in U.S. District Court by Judge Charles R. Pyle. Ozuna-Huicosa and Perez-Lugo had been charged with illegal entry into the U.S. in violation of Title 8, U.S. Code, Section 1325. At the request of Mexican authorities, the U.S. agreed to dismiss the pending charges so that the defendants could be returned to Mexico to face charges for very serious crimes committed there. The transfer of Ozuna-Huicosa and Perez-Lugo to Mexican federal authorities occurred on Monday afternoon, facilitated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton stated that "the dismissal of the charges was the right thing to do in this case. The Mexican government asked us to dismiss the charges so that these defendants can be prosecuted in Mexico for their crimes. This was an excellent collaborative effort by all the law enforcement agencies involved."

Ozuna-Huicosa and Perez-Lugo were apprehended on March 22, 2005, near Nogales, Ariz. by agents of U.S. Border Patrol. The two fugitives were with a group of 61 illegal aliens attempting to enter the U.S. when apprehended. A Border Patrol agent noticed that Perez-Lugo resembled one of the six Mexican fugitives from a poster which had been circulated to U.S. law enforcement authorities. Perez-Lugo and Ozuna-Huicosa were further identified by their tattoos and admitted their true identities to law enforcement.

CASE NUMBER: Perez-Lugo 05-03389M-P

Ozuna-Huicosa 05-03390M-P

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